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SPECIALIZING IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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* Comments:

Proposal for interview to be held
Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 2:30 PM.

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PROPOSED CLAIM

Fibre-reinforced moulded part comprises a textile fabric in the form of a woven fabric made of at least two fibre materials, wherein the woven fabric is made of a hybrid yarn of staple fibres, the staple fibres of the hybrid yarn are made of a first thermoplastic material and a second inorganic material and the moulded part contains a matrix, which comprises a resolidified product of plasticized staple fibres made of the thermoplastic first material and, embedded in the matrix, oriented fibres in the form of staple fibres made of the inorganic second material, wherein a softening or melting point of the staple fibres made of the inorganic second material is higher than the softening or melting point of the thermoplastic first material and the fibre orientation of the inorganic second material corresponds to the fibre orientation of the textile fabric, wherein the fibres made of the thermoplastic first material make up 60 to 30% in relation to volume and the staple fibres made of the second material made of inorganic fibres make up 40 to 70% in relation to volume.

COMMENT

The reference cited, EP 630 735, refers to a fiber reinforced composite with a multicomponent staple fiber yarn having two different thermoplastic materials. The problem appears in combining the two thermoplastic materials because strength reducing air pockets remain between said materials (column 2, lines 44-54). The proposed solution consists to process two different thermoplastic components to form a multicomponent staple fiber yarn (column 3, lines 2-13). By definition the yarn is made by staple fibers (column 1, lines 21-23).

The fibre slip effect (see our specs, Page 8, lines 1-3) is of no meaning at EP '735 and therefore not part of the object of EP '735. In contrary the thermoplastic reinforcing fibers are drawable for forming (column 3, line 8). In addition, in examples 1-4 the yarns are processed to 3-dimensional knittings. Said knittings are not formed, as for example stretched, anymore during the pressing operation (column 11, lines 6-14). The matrix material consists of staple fibers and the reinforcing fibres are drawable thermoplastic continuous filaments (column 7/8, lines 51-31).

In accordance with the instant claim 1 the reinforcing fibres (second material) are of inorganic nature. Inorganic fibres are almost not drawable and brittle. The EP '735 offers no teaching to produce fibre reinforced parts made from woven fabrics containing inorganic reinforcing fibres, whereby the reinforcing fibres do not break. The EP '735 refers preferably to thermoplastic reinforcing fibres made of continuous filaments. This teaching is guiding away from the instant invention.